



TRAFFIC ALERT

VirginiaDOT.org

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
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MAJOR CHANGES COMING TO PORT REPUBLIC ROAD PROJECT NEAR RMH

STAUNTON – Motorists should be alert for two upcoming traffic pattern changes along the Port Republic Road (Route 253) and Southeast Connector roadway work zone in Rockingham County. One will take place on Sept. 1 and another will take place on Sept. 2.

The western side of the Southeast Connector road intersection at Port Republic Road will be open to traffic on Sept. 1. Currently the east side of the Southeast Connector leading into the new Rockingham Memorial Hospital complex is open at the Port Republic Road intersection.

The western portion of the Southeast Connector extends from Port Republic Road to its new intersection with Ridgedale Road (Route 710). This portion of the Southeast Connector will have a through lane for westbound traffic and an eastbound through and turn-lane plus a dedicated left-turn lane for traffic leaving the Southeast Connector and entering Port Republic Road.

With the construction that has been completed to date at the Southeast Connector and Port Republic Road intersection, the current Ridgedale Road intersection with Port Republic Road will be closed and the traffic signal will be removed from this location. Drivers wishing to turn west onto Ridgedale Road from Port Republic Road will do so at the new Southeast Connector road and take the Southeast Connector to Ridgedale Road. Stop signs will control traffic at the Rosedale Road and Southeast Connector intersection.

Members of local law enforcement agencies will be at the Southeast Connector to assist with the traffic control changes.

It should be noted that the construction for the entire Southeast Connector has yet to be fully funded and there is no fixed construction date for the remainder of this road.

On Sept. 2 there will be a traffic shift on Port Republic Road between 1000 feet south of Boyers Road (Route 704) to 1000 feet south of Stone Spring Road. Southbound traffic will be shifting to the left onto the newly constructed roadway. Northbound traffic will be shifting to the right onto the newly constructed roadway.

All work is subject to change and weather permitting.

The contract for this project valued at \$10.1 million was awarded on Jan. 20, 2010 to Branch Highways Inc. of Roanoke. The new road will have a design speed of 50 miles per hour with a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour. The improvements include four travel lanes with curb and gutter and a 16-foot raised curb median. Crossovers and left-turn lanes will be provided at all major intersections. Existing entrances and connections will be maintained during construction and tied into the finished roadway upon completion of the project which is scheduled for January 2012.

Approximately .2 miles of the Southeast Connector, Alternate 4, at the Port Republic Road intersection is being constructed as part of this project. Alternative 4 of the Southeast Connector extends from Stone Spring Road at the Harrisonburg city limits to Route 33. The remainder of the Southeast Connector Alternative 4 will be constructed in future projects as funding becomes available.

Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations are also part of the project. A 10-foot paved shared used path for bicyclists and pedestrians will be located along the west side of the road. A five-foot sidewalk will be located along the east side of the road. All pedestrian accommodations will be handicap accessible.

The VDOT Staunton District serves Frederick, Shenandoah, Clarke, Warren, Page, Rockingham, Augusta, Highland, Rockbridge, Alleghany and Bath counties.

Traffic alerts and traveler information can be obtained by dialing 511. In areas where 511 is unavailable, dial 1-866-MY511VA (866-695-1182) (TTY/TDD users, call 711). Traffic alerts and traveler information also are available at 511Virginia.org.

Highway safety is everyone's responsibility. Virginia's highway safety partnership — the Virginia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and Virginia State Police — challenges you to help prevent highway fatalities. Buckle up. Avoid distractions. Share the road. Drive drug- and alcohol-free. Obey speed limits. For more information on the Highway Safety Challenge and things you can do to avoid becoming Virginia's next traffic fatality, visit www.safeVAhighways.org.

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